

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01

LAB-04 /064 W

----- 080819

R 132002Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

95 STRATWG GOOSE AB (JA)

AAFES DALLAS TEXAS (CG)

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJ: LABOR PROBLEMS AT GOOSE BAY

REF: STATE 033056

1. EMBOFF RAISED SUBSTANCE REFTEL FEB 12 WITH JOHN LEGG AND DAVID GILLET, DEFENSE RELATIONS DIVISION, EXTAFF. WHILE LEGG EXPRESSED PERSONAL REGRET THAT NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RAISED MATTER FIRST WITH EXTAFF, HE DID NOT APPEAR SURPRISED AND NOTED THAT THIS MERELY ANOTHER IN SERIES OF CLAIMS BEING MADE BY GOOSE BAY EMPLOYEES. ACCORDING TO LEGG, EXTAFF HAS RECEIVED BOTH REPRESENTATIONS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT AND DIRECT PETITIONS FROM EMPLOYEES THEMSELVES REGARDING VARIOUS CLAIMS ON SUCH AS PENSIONS AND SEVERANCE PAY. THESE MATTERS NOW BEING STUDIED BY EXTAFF LEGAL AFFAIRS BUREAU.

2. GIVING INTERPRETATION OF REFTEL, EMOFF MENTIONED THAT IT APPEARED US PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN GETTING THIS MATTER INFO PROPER PROCEDURAL CHANNELS WHICH WOULD NOT INCLUDE SUCH AS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS OF LOCAL
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OFFICIALS. LEGG SAID THAT THIS MADE SENSE TO HIM. HE

SAID THAT EXTAFF WOULD REVIEW SITUATION AND LIKELY CONTACT NEWFOUNDLAND OFFICIALS TO URGE THEM TO LET FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HANDLE MATTER. HE ADDED THAT EXTAFF WOULD GET BACK TO EMBASSY WHEN IT HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW OUR REPRESENTATION AND PROBABLY CONTACT NEWFOUNDLAND OFFICIALS.

3. LEGG ASKED EMBOFF WHETHER USAF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OFFICE AT GOOSE BAY DID NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE VARIOUS RECORDS TO NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT, FROM HIS READING OF REFTEL, IT APPEARED EVIDENT THAT USAF OFFICE WOULD NOT FURNISH SUCH MATERIAL IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING EARLIER GOOSE BAY EMPLOYEE CLAIMS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF US AND CANADIAN CONSIDERATION, LEGG MENTIONED PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT, AT LEAST IN SOME CASES, EMPLOYEES DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE LEGAL LEG TO STAND ON. AS HE PUT IT, THEY MADE DEAL AT BEGINNING OF EMPLOYMENT AND, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, WERE STUCK WITH SUCH TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT. LEGG COMMENT, OF COURSE, NOT MADE IN CONTEXT OF REFTEL SUBJECT MATTER.
ENDERS

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